



Policy # 6307

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Policy Title: Northern Pocket Gopher Control –Incentive Program

Policy No.: 6307

Approval: County Council

Effective Date: January 13, 2016

Approved Date: January 31, 2024

Last Review Date: January 31, 2024


Supersedes Policy No.: New

Policy Statement: Mountain View County will provide an incentive program for Northern Pocket Gophers, as a means of controlling this declared nuisance under the *Alberta Agricultural Pest Act*.

Purpose: Council recognizes the damage the Northern pocket gopher (*Thomomys talpoides*) causes to field crops and equipment and aims to provide education and an incentive program to encourage their control.



Procedure Title: Northern Pocket Gopher Control – Incentive Program
Procedure No.: 6307-01
Approval: CAO
Effective Date: January 13, 2016
Approved Date: February 15, 2024
Last Review Date: January 31, 2024
Supersedes Procedure No.: New



1. Definitions

- 1.1 “**Adult**” means a person 18 years of age or older.
- 1.2 “**Northern Pocket Gopher**” means a 20cm long burrowing rodent with a large head, small eyes and ears, stout body, thick muscular forearms with long curved claws, and a short nearly naked tail. The fur is fine and soft usually steel grey on the back and slightly paler on the belly.
- 1.3 “**Youth**” means a person under 18 years of age.

2. Incentive Program

- 2.1 Mountain View County is offering an incentive of \$1.00 per Northern Pocket Gopher tail for a minimum of 50 tails to a maximum of 100 tails.
- 2.2 Eligibility
 - 2.2.1 Youth Applicant: Any youth applicant who has trapped Northern Pocket Gophers within the County will be accepted.
 - 2.2.2 Adult Applicant: One submission per County resident for Northern Pocket Gophers trapped within the County will be accepted.
- 2.3 The entire tail needs to be of good quality and preferably frozen, for identification purposes. If a tail cannot be identified as a Northern Pocket Gopher, it will not be eligible for the incentive payment.
- 2.4 Only Northern Pocket Gophers trapped on Mountain View County Agricultural Lands shall be eligible under this Policy. The legal land location of where the pocket gophers were trapped must be provided to receive the incentive.
- 2.5 Only one submission per applicant per year will be accepted.
- 2.6 Mountain View County Council will establish an annual budget for the incentive trapping program for the Northern Pocket Gophers each year.
- 2.7 Tail submissions will be accepted until the approved budget is expended.

- 2.8 Agricultural Services will administer the program and authorize payments at their discretion.
- 2.9 This incentive program does not apply to the Richardson's Ground squirrel commonly known as gophers, or any other rodent.